

# SENATE BILL 907

J1, D4, D3

6lr2230

CF 6lr2229

---

By: Senator Love

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

### **Public Health – Female Genital Mutilation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “abuse” to include female genital mutilation  
4 for the purposes of a provision of law requiring certain persons to provide notice of  
5 suspected abuse or neglect of a child or make a written report of suspected abuse or  
6 neglect of a child; altering the actions regarding female genital mutilation in which  
7 a person is prohibited from engaging; increasing the penalties for a violation of  
8 certain provisions related to female genital mutilation; requiring, under certain  
9 circumstances, a health occupations licensing board to revoke the license of an  
10 individual who commits a violation of certain provisions of this Act; authorizing an  
11 individual who is subject to female genital mutilation to bring a civil action for  
12 certain relief; requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration with  
13 certain government agencies and public and private organizations, to develop,  
14 publish, and distribute certain educational materials regarding female genital  
15 mutilation; and generally relating to female genital mutilation.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Family Law

18 Section 5–701(a) and 5–704

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article – Family Law

23 Section 5–701(b)

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

26 BY adding to

27 Article – Health – General

28 Section 20–601 and 20–605 through 20–607

---

**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



# Annotated Code of Maryland (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

pealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Health – General  
Section 20–601 through 20–603  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

## Article – Family Law

1

(a) Except as otherwise provided in § 5-705.1 of this subtitle, in this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) (1) "Abuse" means:

(i) the physical or mental injury of a child under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed

1. a parent;

2. a household member or family member;

3. a person who has permanent or temporary care or custody

4. a person who has responsibility for supervision of the

5. a person who, because of the person's position or authority over the child;

(ii) sexual abuse of a child, whether physical injuries are sustained

(iii) labor trafficking of a child by any individual.

29 (2) "ABUSE" INCLUDES FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, AS DEFINED  
30 IN § 20-601 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.

3 5-704.

4 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any law on privileged  
5 communications, each health practitioner, police officer, educator, or human service  
6 worker, acting in a professional capacity in this State who has reason to believe that a child  
7 has been subjected to abuse or neglect:

14 (b) (1) An individual who notifies the appropriate authorities under subsection  
15 (a) of this section shall make:

16 (i) an oral report, by telephone or direct communication, as soon as  
17 possible to the local department or appropriate law enforcement agency; and

18 (ii) a written report:

22. with a copy to the local State's Attorney.

23 (2) (i) An agency to which an oral report of suspected abuse or neglect  
24 is made under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall immediately notify the other agency.

(ii) This paragraph does not prohibit a local department and an appropriate law enforcement agency from agreeing to cooperative arrangements.

27 (c) Insofar as is reasonably possible, an individual who makes a report under this  
28 section shall include in the report the following information:

29 (1) the name, age, and home address of the child;

30 (2) the name and home address of the child's parent or other person who is  
31 responsible for the child's care;

32 (3) the whereabouts of the child;

4 (5) any other information that would help to determine:

5 (i) the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect; and

6 (ii) the identity of any individual responsible for the abuse or neglect.

## Article – Health – General

8 20-601.

9           IN THIS SUBTITLE, "FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION" MEANS A PROCEDURE  
10          PERFORMED FOR NONMEDICAL REASONS THAT INVOLVES PARTIAL OR TOTAL  
11          REMOVAL OF OR OTHER INJURY TO THE EXTERNAL FEMALE GENITALIA, INCLUDING:

12 (1) A CLITORIDECTOMY OR THE PARTIAL OR TOTAL REMOVAL OF THE  
13 CLITORIS, PREPUCE, OR CLITORAL HOOD;

22 [20-601.] 20-602.

23       (a) Except as provided in [§ 20-602] **§ 20-603** of this subtitle, a person [who  
24 circumcises, excises, or infibulates the whole or any part of the labia majora or labia minora  
25 or clitoris of an individual who is under the age of 18 years is guilty of] **MAY NOT:**

4 (b) Except as provided in [§ 20-602] **§ 20-603** of this subtitle, a parent, guardian,  
5 or other individual is guilty of female genital mutilation if the individual:

(1) Is legally responsible and charged with the care or custody of a child under the age of 18 years; and

11 [20-602.] 20-603.

12       (a) A surgical operation is not a violation of this subtitle if the operation is  
13 necessary to the health of the individual on whom it is performed and is performed by a  
14 person licensed in the State as a medical practitioner.

15 (b) In determining whether an operation is necessary to the health of the  
16 individual, no account may be taken of the belief on the part of any individual that the  
17 operation is required as a matter of custom or ritual.

18 [20-603.] 20-604.

19       (A) A person who violates the provisions of this subtitle is guilty of a felony and  
20 on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding [5] 10 years or a fine not exceeding  
21 [\$5,000] \$10,000 or both.

22 (B) IF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS A LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THE HEALTH  
23 OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE IS CONVICTED OF, ENTERS A PLEA OF GUILTY OR OF NOLO  
24 CONTENDERE FOR, OR RECEIVES PROBATION BEFORE JUDGMENT FOR A VIOLATION  
25 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE APPLICABLE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD SHALL REVOKE  
26 THE LICENSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

27 20-605.

28 (A) A VICTIM OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION PERFORMED IN VIOLATION  
29 OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY FILE AN ACTION IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE COUNTY IN  
30 WHICH THE VIOLATION OCCURRED OR THE VICTIM RESIDES.

31           **(B) IF THE COURT FINDS THAT A PERSON VIOLATED THIS SUBTITLE, THE**  
32           **COURT MAY AWARD THE PLAINTIFF.**

- (1) ACTUAL DAMAGES;**
- (2) COMPENSATORY DAMAGES;**
- (3) PUNITIVE DAMAGES;**
- (4) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES, COURT COSTS, AND LITIGATION  
INCLUDING EXPERT WITNESS FEES AND EXPENSES; AND**
- (5) ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE RELIEF.**

(C) AN ACTION BROUGHT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL  
LED THE LATER OF:

13 20-606.

14 (A) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, THE  
15 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,  
16 STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
17 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL  
18 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF  
19 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, CONTAINING DE-IDENTIFIED AND  
20 DISAGGREGATED DATA ON THE NUMBER OF:

21 (1) REPORTS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION SUBMITTED IN  
22 ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-704 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE;

**(2) INDIVIDUALS PROSECUTED FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE:**

24 (3) INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE:

**(4) CIVIL ACTIONS FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

1           (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER  
2 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

3 20-607.

4 THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY-BASED  
5 ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL:

6 (1) DEVELOP AND PUBLISH CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY  
7 APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION,  
8 INCLUDING:

11 (II) THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RISKS CAUSED BY  
12 FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION; AND

13 (III) THE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS  
14 SUBTITLE; AND

15 (2) DISTRIBUTE THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS DESCRIBED UNDER  
16 ITEM (1) OF THIS SECTION TO:

17 (I) HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

18 (II) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES;

### 19 (III) SCHOOLS;

20 (IV) THE PUBLIC; AND

21 (v) ANY OTHER PROFESSIONAL OR COMMUNITY-BASED  
22 ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY WORK OR INTERACT WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT  
23 RISK OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2026.